

State Water Resources Control Board

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WATER BOARD AWARDS \$425,000 TO PROTECTED HARVEST

Prop. 50 Grant Helps Sustainable Farming

SACRAMENTO-The State Water Board today awarded \$425,000 to Protected Harvest, a non-profit organization, to help with sustainable farming practices.

The grant was from voter-approved Proposition 50 grant funds and presented Tuesday at an outdoor ceremony at the California Environmental Protection Agency building.

Water Board Chair Arthur G. Baggett Jr. presented the check to Protected Harvest Executive Director Carolyn Brickley during a ceremony where U.S. EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson promoted sustainable agriculture and recognized farmers who agree to use conservation practices and manage their use of pesticides.

"The Protected Harvest Program emphasizes the Water Boards' commitment to resources protection and ensures that farmers are recognized for their environmental stewardship," Baggett said.

Protected Harvest will produce a Sustainable Tomato Processing Workbook to monitor sustainable tomato production practices including:

- erosion and sediment control
- nutrient management
- pest management
- pesticide management
- irrigation water management
- habitat management

The grant is from the Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program, a \$29.5 million Proposition 50 program to address water quality issues from irrigated agricultural lands. Nonpoint source pollution is the leading cause of water quality impairments and agriculture is the leading contributor to pollution in California.

The Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program provides grants to eligible recipients for projects that reduce or eliminate the discharge of polluted runoff from irrigated agricultural lands.

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